

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 230715

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 230715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI

SUBJECT:SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. SMITHSONIAN INVITING GON TO PARTICIPATE 1976 BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL BY SENDING GROUP OF 25 FOLK ARTISTS, ONE GUIDNG FOLKLORIST AND ONE TOUR ADMINISTRATOR TO U.S. AT SMITHSONIAN EXPENSE. TERMS ROUGHLY LIKE TERMS FOR NIGERIA'S 1974 PARTICIPATION EXCEPT SMITHSONIAN COVERS AIRFARE. AFTER TWO WEEKS ON MALL, WASHINGTON, GROUP WILL TOUR FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS TO JOIN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN FOUR OR SIX CITIES.

2. ONE INVITATION BEING EXTENDED TO NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR, WASHINGTON. SECOND INVITATION WILL BE PRESENTED GON BY DR. BERNICE REAGON ARRIVING LAGOS 23 OCTOBER, CAMORU FLIGHT 707, 1105 HOURS; DEPARTING 25 OCTOBER PANAM FLIGHT 188, 1510 HOURS. HOTBL RESERVATIONS REQUESTED.

3. COURTESY CALL ON YEKINI SANUSI, NIGERIAN FIRST SECRETARY, SUGGESTS FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. HE RECOMMENDS REAGON FIRST CALL ON DR. GARBA ASHIWAJU, CHIEF

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PAGE 02 STATE 230715

CULTURAL OFFICER, AND HIS DEPUTY, AIG IMOKHUEDE, WITH

WHOM REAGON CONFERRED FEBRUARY 1974. ASHIWAJU WOULD THEN RECOMMEND OTHERS REAGON SHOULD SEE.

4. TWELVE WEEK 1976 FESTIVAL BEING PLANNED, WITH SIX AFRICAN AND SIX CARIBBEAN NATIONS INVITED TO PERFORM TWO WEEKS EACH IN "AFRICAN DIASPORA" THEME AREA TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN FOLK ARTISTS CARRYING ON SAME CULTURAL TRADITIONS TO ILLUSTRATE CONTINUITY OF BLACK CULTURE OVER THREE CONTINENTS. NIGERIA TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 15 THORUGH 29. PRESENT PLANS SUGGEST NEED FOR GROUP WITH YORUBA AND HAUSA CULTURAL MATERIALS IN MUSIC AND DANCE AREAS. CRAFT AREAS NOT YET DESIGNATED.

5. BELIEVE NIGERIAN EMBASSY ALERTING ASHIWAJU OF REAGON VISIT, POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OCTOBER 24. WOULD APPRECIATE USIS VERIFYING APPOINTMENT AND ACCOMPANYING REAGON. DR. HALIM EL DABH, SMITHSONIAN CONSULTANT ETHNOMUSICOLOGIST, WILL CONDUCT FIELDWORK LATE NOVEMBER WITH CULTURAL OFFICIAL(S) DESIGNATED BY GON, TO SELECT PARTICIPANTS. THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO ASHIWAJU AND TO SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL DIRECTOR WHO MAKES FINAL DECISION.

6. SMITHSONIAN WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR POST GUIDANCE AND COOPERATION. KISSINGER

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